Contracts concluded by the Ministry of Defence stipulate a clause on non-involvement of agents specifying that in case at a later date agents are found to be involved in a contract, the contract will be liable for termination along with refund of payments made under the contract with interest and blacklisting of the company for a minimum period of five years. The amount paid as commission to the agent will also have to be refunded. The Government has recently requested the Central Vigilance Commission to thoroughly investigate the alleged irregularities in all major defence procurement decision since the involvement of agents in the procurement of weapons and weapon system was banned by the Government in 1989.

Satellites for defence purposes

2149. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any satellites for defence purpose;

(b) if so, whether the satellites were not being utilised to detect Pakistani terrorists infiltration at Kargil and other areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether robots with full electronic devices can be used in inaccessible areas in high altitudes for security purposes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is no dedicated Satellite for defence purpose. However, whenever there is a requirement, data from civil satellites are used for defence purposes.

(d) Robots with full electronic devices can not be used in inaccessible areas in high altitude because of terrain contraints and prevailing technology limitation.

Legislation for terrorist related crime

2150. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent hijacking of Indian Airlines plane Government are thinking of a suitable legislation which would provide for severe punishment for terrorist related crimes, including offences connected with hijacking of aircrafts and also aiming at combating international terrorism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when this legislation would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May, 1995. This Bill could not be passed due to the lack of political consensus. In December, 1998, Government requested the Law Commission of India to examine the issue regarding an appropriate Anti-Terrorism Legislation for the country. The report of the Law Commission is awaited. All acts of terrorism including hijacking would come under the purview of the proposed legislation. Also, various international conventions relating to anti-hijacking and the enabling Indian Act entitled ""Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982" already provide punishment for such offences.

Assault on boys refusing to convert

2151. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled ""Alleged Assault for boys refusing to convert" appeared in The Hindustan Times dated 4th February, 2000;

(b) whether the contents of the allegation made therein are correct; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to see that the children belonging to the poor families are not denied the admission in the school as also to check the conversions to Christianity in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, a report was lodged on 2.2.2000 by one Jagannath, resident of village Kundway alleging that Father of Rajeshware Convent School has been beating the children of Najafgarh Hostel for the past 15 days and compelling them to attend the Church. Case is under investigation. However, the State Govt. has also informed that it is not correct that any coercion was used for conversion of children.

(c) Does not arise.

Illegal migrants in Assam

2152. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of illegal migrants from Bangladesh to Assam since 1971;